

HEADQUARTERS
33RD CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON
APO 403 c/o POSTMASTER
NEW YORK NEW YORK

AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT
FOR
PERIOD 1 - 31 MAY 1945

Robert P O'Brien Jr.
ROBERT P. O'BRIEN JR.
Lieutenant, Cavalry,
Commanding.

UNCLASSIFIED

SEARCHED	INDEXED	SERIALIZED	FILED	APR 3 1945	BY AUTHORITY
OF	1	1	1	1	1
IN	1	1	1	1	1
ON	1	1	1	1	1

UNCLASSIFIED

May 1945, of course, will always be a great month in the history of the Squadron, marking as it did, the culmination of the war in Europe and the accomplishment of the mission for which it had been trained and fought so long. They found the Squadron in Czechoslovakia, prepared to move with the 1st Infantry Division. It is an interesting fact, that the Squadron ended the war with the same division with which it had first seen combat in Normandy.

1 May 1945. The Squadron remained at WEIDEN and all troops were engaged in maintenance. Two platoons of Troop A were alerted for a mission assigned by V-Corps Security Officer.

2 May 1945. Upon receiving the mission of clearing a wooded area in the vicinity of NEUSIEDL, Germany, the Squadron moved out. On the two platoons of Troop A which were attached to V-Corps Headquarters. A large section of the assigned area was cleared by evening and all troops billeted in towns nearby. The Squadron Command Post was established at NEUSIEDL.

3 May 1945. In the early morning the Squadron continued on its mission. Troop B was attached to Troop A because of the absence of two platoons of Troop B who were on a Corps Security mission. This Troop with Company G of the 2nd Ranger Battalion, while clearing the area, engaged in a fire fight with three enemy who were discovered in a small loged hut. One enemy was killed and two others escaped. In the hut were found two German machine guns, some rifles, pistol-pumperfausts and ammunition. A diary and several maps were also found. These disclosed the fact that this particular group of enemy had trashed several American vehicles and had been operating in the vicinity for several days. The hut was destroyed. A total of twenty-two prisoners were taken during the day and, by evening the wooded area had been cleared and all troops billeted for the night. The Squadron Command Post was located at FICHTELBERG.

4 May 1945. The Squadron had hardly settled back to its old positions at WEIDEN, when a new mission was received. This was to clear another wooded area near PRESSATH where a band of Germans was reported to be hiding. Not long after patrolling was started, several prisoners were brought in. Upon interrogation by Lt Hays of IPW Team #1, they stated that they were part of a group of SS from an O.S.S. school. Having been committed as a battalion, and having suffered heavy casualties, they had split into small bands and dispersed in an effort to reach the German main body. They had marched by night and during the day, supplying themselves enroute, by entering small towns and taking the food they needed. Later in the day, Troop C and Company B, 2nd Ranger Battalion, engaged in a small fire fight with about eight enemy. Two enemy were killed and four captured. One of the prisoners was Captain Baer who had led one of the small bands. During the day, a total of fifteen German soldiers were captured and by dark our mission was completed. Further interrogation revealed that the band of Germans had given up all hope of success and had agreed to try to make their way singly to their homes. All troops returned to WEIDEN and its vicinity.

5 - 6 May 1945. The two day period was uneventful. All troops continued maintenance and retribution of vehicle loads. On the 6th a warning order was received to prepare for a move north to join the 1st Infantry Division.

7 May 1945. A march was made from WEIDEN to ASCH, Czechoslovakia and the Squadron assembled in this vicinity. All along the route of march rumors that the war was ended came from various soldiers along the way. Upon arrival at ASCH it was learned that the 1st Division had been ordered to cease offensive operations and take up a defensive position, and the Squadron went into assembly areas, awaiting orders.

UNCLASSIFIED

8 May 1945. The news of V-E day was received very quietly by all members of the Squadron. The joy and relief the news brought was tempered by the thought that only half the job was done. All troops remained in position since we now had no mission.

9 May 1945. The day passed quietly and in the afternoon Lieutenant Colonel O'Brien and Lieutenant Colonel Williams of the 2nd Ranger Battalion addressed the Squadron and Companies A, B, and C of the Regt. Their talks were of V-E Day, of the job done and the job still facing us.

10 May 1945. Early in the afternoon the Squadron made a march from ASTH to PRESTICE, Czechoslovakia. It was a pleasant relief for the entire Squadron to once again move through friendly country and to receive the sincere welcome of the people. The Squadron Command Post, HQ Detachment, Troop E and Company F set up at PRESTICE while Troops A, B, and C established themselves in the surrounding towns of SKOCICE, OPIAT and ZAROVCE respectively. In all towns a friendly welcome was given by the people.

11 May - 31 May 1945. For the balance of the month all units remained in their same locations. On the 11th, Companies A, B, and C and Headquarters of the 2nd Ranger Battalion were detached and assembled in a nearby town. After so long a close and successful union, the Squadron saw the Rangers go with a sincere feeling of regret. To a man, the Squadron has only the greatest admiration and respect for this fine group of men. On the 17th a Squadron review was held for a group of Russian Officers from the 9th Russian Corps who were guests of the Squadron Commander. During this period, show-down inspections and physical profile examinations were completed in preparation for redeployment, and normal training was resumed. A few small missions of investigating the reports of German bands in the vicinity were accomplished. During the entire time the sincere friendliness of the people was very evident and the end of the month found the Squadron beginning to lose men who were being sent home, and awaiting the orders which will give us an indication of what the future holds.

Tactically, the month of May 1945 was uneventful. The few mopping up missions of the first few days were brought to a close by the cessation of hostilities. The month proved interesting because of our move to friendly country after so long a period in Germany. The end of the month found the Squadron leading practically a garrison life, and awaiting the orders which would decide its future.

LIST OF FORMER MEMBERS WHO HAVE RETURNED TO DUTY

2nd Lt Thomas R. Jack, Company F	Pfc John J. Glynn, Company F
2nd Lt William H. Moseley, Troop C	Pfc George S. Kinkaid, Troop E
2nd Lt Wilson A. Smith, Troop B	Pfc David B. Alabrooks, Troop B
S/Sgt Delbert O. Christanson, Company F	Pfc Louis A. Walters, Company F
S/Sgt Ralph J. Dorr, HQ Troop	Pfc Joseph B. Bettini, Troop E
S/Sgt Walter Zuckoff, Troop E	Pfc Frank Chornak, Troop C
Sgt Clifford W. Sprinkle, HQ Troop	Pvt Ramon A. Parsons, Troop A
Sgt Eugene Stone, Company F	Pvt Henry Gabin, Company F
Tec 4 Lorne V. Hall, Troop E	Pvt Ronald P. Sirard, Troop B
Tec 4 Bernard Schlosser, Company F	Pvt David F. Jordan, Troop C
Tec 4 Joseph Tschinkel, Company F	Pvt Harold W. Benham, Troop C
Cpl Adolph Y. Tribble, Troop C	Pvt Ambrigo J. Pagosa, Company F
Tec 5 George A. Starke, Troop B	Pvt John Rusen, Troop B
Tec 5 Louis D. Chieffo, Troop B	Pvt Frank Schimbene, Troop A
Tec 5 Glenn D. Walters, Troop A	Pvt Robert J. Wills, Troop B
Tec 5 Michael F. Jacobs, Troop B	Pvt James E. Godard, Troop B
Tec 5 Wayne F. Noble, Troop C	Pvt Samuel L. Woodson, Troop A
Tec 5 Felix A. Hall, Troop E	
Pfc Harold D. Lockwood, Troop E	
Pfc Bernard R. Wisnewski, Troop C	
Pfc Herbert N. Stewart, Troop B	